

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] According to a ~~the~~ second feature of the invention's method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps, in the construction having ~~the~~ a first feature described above, in said inputting step, the aggregating system inputs stored diagnostic result data and model confirmation result data from the diagnostic device which has diagnosed a working condition of each of some of the plurality of existing steam traps installed in the customer's plant; and

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] According to a ~~the~~ third ~~characterizing~~ feature, in the method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps having the first or second feature, the system effects the further step of adding, to a contract for lump-sum replacement of the steam traps to be concluded between the customer and a seller of the steam traps, a maintenance contract for the seller to act on the customer's behalf for inspection of all of the recommended steam traps newly installed in the plant and renewal of service book of these steam traps associated with the inspection during the predetermined period after the lump-sum replacement of the steam traps. Alternatively, the aggregating system effects the further steps of inputting stored diagnostic result data from the diagnostic device which has diagnosed a working condition of each of all the recommended steam traps newly installed in the plant after the lump-sum replacement of the existing steam traps by the recommended steam traps; and

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] According to a ~~the~~ fourth ~~characterizing~~ feature of the invention, in the construction having the third ~~characterizing~~ feature described above, the steam trap service book is stored in the database in such a manner that the service book is accessible from a customer's terminal via communication means.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] That is to say, with this method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps, the steam trap service book may be stored at the single site, that is its,

centrally within the database of the aggregating system. Hence, compared with a case of storing the steam trap service books separately at the seller's side and the customer's side, the renewal of the steam trap service book can be effected more easily and accurately. Further, since the service book is stored at the side of the seller who effects the inspection of steam traps on behalf of the customer, the renewing operations of the steam trap service book can be carried out even more easily.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] According to a ~~the~~ fifth characterizing feature of the invention, in the method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps having any one of the first through fourth features described above, the system effects the further step of adding, to a contract for lump-sum replacement of the steam traps to be concluded between the customer and a seller of the steam traps, a warranty contract for the seller to warrant the newly installed recommended steam traps for the predetermined period after the lump-sum replacement of the existing steam traps.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] According to a ~~the~~ sixth characterizing feature of the invention, in the method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps having any one of the first through fifth features described above, the system effects the further step of adding, to a contract for lump-sum replacement of the steam traps to be concluded between the customer and a seller of the steam traps, a divided payment contract using a credit loan company.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] According to a ~~the~~ seventh characterizing feature of the invention, in the method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps having any one of the first through sixth features described above, in the step of diagnosing the working conditions of the existing steam traps for generating the comparison data or in the step of inspecting the steam traps under the maintenance contract concluded, the system effects the further step of inspecting working conditions of auxiliary plant devices other than and relating to the existing or newly installed recommended steam traps.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] According to an the eighth characterizing feature of the present invention, there is provided an aggregating system for use in a method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps, the system comprises:

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] According to a the ninth characterizing feature of the invention, in the system having the eighth feature;

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] the inputting means comprises means for inputting stored diagnostic result data and model confirmation result data from the diagnostic device which has diagnosed a working condition of each of some of the plurality of existing steam traps installed in the customer's plant; and

Please replace paragraph [0053] with the following amended paragraph:

[0053] the first calculating means comprises means for calculating an estimated value of the first steam loss amount based on the diagnostic result data and also on a trap number ratio comprising a ratio between the number of said some steam traps diagnosed and the total number of the existing steam traps; and

Please replace paragraph [0055] with the following amended paragraph:

[0055] With this aggregating system, like the aggregating system having the eighth feature described above, the seller of steam traps can readily implement the method of supporting sales and maintenance of steam traps having the first characterizing feature described above. And, compared with a construction requiring manual inputting of these model confirmation result data and diagnostic result data by an operator, the inputting operation may too be simple and the burden on the operator may be effectively reduced.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] In this construction, for inputting the trap number ratio, this may be done either by inputting the number of the somesum steam traps diagnosed and the total

number of the existing steam traps respectively or by directly inputting the trap number ratio between the diagnosed existing steam traps and all of the entire existing steam traps.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] According to a the tenth characterizing feature of the invention, in the system having the eighth or ninth feature described above, the system further comprises service book producing means for producing a steam trap service book in a predetermined format according to a predetermined procedure, based on the diagnostic result data inputted to the inputting means.

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following amended paragraph:

[0059] According to an the eleventh characterizing feature of the present invention, in the aggregating system having any one of the eighth through tenth features described above;

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] According to a the twelfth characterizing feature of the present invention, ~~in the aggregating system according to claim 9,~~

Please replace paragraph [0067] with the following amended paragraph:

[0067] According to a the thirteenth characterizing feature of the present invention, in the aggregating system having any one of the eighth through twelfth features, the second calculating means calculates the second total steam loss amount or the estimated value thereof and the second sub-total steam loss amount or the estimated value thereof for each of a plurality of models of recommended steam traps.

Please replace paragraph [0086] with the following amended paragraph:

[0086] Separately from the above, in response to an instruction for producing further comparison data, this computer system 7 further calculates, based on the above-described input data including the number of the existing steam traps of the diagnosed area 1 (i.e. the number of the diagnosed existing steam traps) and the number of the other existing steam traps in the other undiagnosed areas 1b-1d, an estimated value of a first total steam loss

amount (Qa) (that is, an estimated value calculated by multiplying a sum of steam leak amounts (qa) due to malfunction of the diagnosed steam traps 2a by a trap number ratio between the number of all of the existing steam traps in the plant 1 and the number of the diagnosed steam traps). Furthermore, this computer system 7 calculates an estimated value of a second total steam loss amount (Qb) which comprises aggregation of differences (qb) between normal or inherent steam leak amounts of all the existing steam traps 2 under their normal working conditions and steam leak amounts of recommended steam traps (in the present embodiment, a free-float type steam ~~trap~~traps) under their normal working conditions, the estimated value being calculated by multiplying the sum of ~~steam~~steak leak amount differences (qb) due to the model difference by the above-described trap number ratio, by using pre-inputted data relating to steam leak amount difference between a recommended model of steam trap and another model of steam trap under their normal working conditions.

Please replace paragraph [0091] with the following amended paragraph:

[0091] The first calculating means 11 calculates the estimated value of the first steam loss amount (Qa) according to the predetermined procedure based on the diagnostic result data inputted to the inputting means 16 and also on the trap number ratio between the number mber of the diagnosed existing steam traps 2a and the total number of all the existing steam traps 2 in the plant 2.

Please replace paragraph [0097] with the following amended paragraph:

[0097] During this sales/maintenance activity, the seller can offer also some optional contracts which can be added to the main contract of lump-sum replacement of the steam traps, explaining their respective merits in terms of maintenance and fund planning. Such optional contracts include guarantee warranty guaranteeing the performance of the recommended steam traps for the predetermined period after the lump-sum replacement of the steam traps, a maintenance contract for the seller to act on the customer's behalf for inspection of all of the steam traps 2 (i.e. the all of the recommended steam traps newly installed) of the plant 1 and renewal of the service book 8 of the steam traps associated with the inspection during the predetermined period after the lump-sum replacement of the steam

Application No. 10/016,241
Paper Dated February 16, 2006
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 16, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 0388-011839

traps and a divided payment contract using a credit loan company for the payment of the cost required for the lump-sum replacement of the steam traps.